Drop in agricultural production

2362. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall agricultural production is expected to drop by 4.9 per cent during 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether the foodgrains production would decline by 5.8 per cent and non-food crops by 3.6 per cent;

(c) whether with the revival of rains in August, sowing of kharif crops has been taken up again; and

(d) if so, to what extent the shortage of rains has affected the kharif crops and the rabi crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The agricultural production in the country during the kharif season 2002-03 has been adversely affected due to drought in a number of States, particularly during the month of July, 2002. However, because of reviva of monsoon in mid-August, there was late sowing of kharif crops in certain regions.

According to the First Advance Estimates of Agricultural Production for 2002-03 released on 12.11.2002, the foodgrains and non-foodgrains production during kharif 2002-03 is expected to decline considerably *vis-a-vis* the production during kharif 2001 -02, as may be seen from the table below:—

(in million tonnes)

Crop	Kharif Production		Change in 2002-03 over 2001-02
	2002-03*	2001-02**	
Foodgrains	90.64	111.51	-18.7%
Oilseeds®	9.89	13.20	-25.1%
Sugarcane	276.39	292.21	-5.4%
Cotton#	9.08	11.69	-22.3%
Jute & Mesta# #	10.73	10.79	-0.6%

* First Advance Estimates for 2002-03 as on 12.11.2002.
** Fourth Advance Estimates for 2001-02 as on 27.6.2002.
@ Includes groundnut, castorseed, seasamum, nigerseed, soyabean and sunflower.
# Million bales of 170 kgs. each.
Million bales of 180 kgs. each.

As regards the Rabi season 2002-03, it is too early to make an assessment because the sowings have not been completed so far.

Horticulture development in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage horticulture in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and to train the farmers in the trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated for each of the above States during 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan in all States and Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Under this scheme assistance is provided to the State Governments for taking up various activities including development of horticulture. This scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirement. Under this scheme assistance is provided for taking up activities like supply of good quality planting material through nurseries, and Tissue Culture Units, assistance for area expansion, productivity improvement programmes, training on latest technologies creation of infrastructure for disease forecasting, plant health clinics, Tissue/leaf analysis, mechanization and on-farm handling of produce.

(c) During 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 16.00 crores each has been allocated for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir under the Macro Management Scheme.

Prices of pulses

2364. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of pulses due to the drought situation this monsoon; and